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SPOT COMMENTARY

CIA DI

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11 March 1991
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IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #650

Military Developments

Unrest Update

Baghdad continues to battle insurgents, especially in the north.

Insurgents claim control of Chamchamal and Kallar west of Karkuk. Further north, Kurdish forces claimed control of the provincial capital of Irbil.

The regime continues to stamp out resistance in the south.

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Political Developments

Possible Execution of Iraqi Defense Minister

Iraqi Defense Minister Sadi Tu'mah was executed in late February for negligence and failure to prevent the allied thrust into Iraqi territory, according to press reports. [REDACTED]

Comment: We cannot independently confirm the press reports claiming Tu'mah was executed. His lack of close ties to Saddam or to other senior leaders, however, would make him a logical scapegoat for Iraq's resounding military defeat. [REDACTED]

Saddam Chairs Revolutionary Command Council Meeting

Radio Baghdad reports that Saddam chaired a Revolutionary Command Council meeting Monday during which a report of Vice-Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim's trip to the Shia provinces of Wasit and Maysan provinces was discussed. The RCC also reportedly discussed "developments in the political situation." [REDACTED]

Comment: Saddam continues to use Iraqi media to portray an image of stability in Baghdad and elsewhere in the country. [REDACTED]

Iraqi Opposition Groups Meet in Beirut

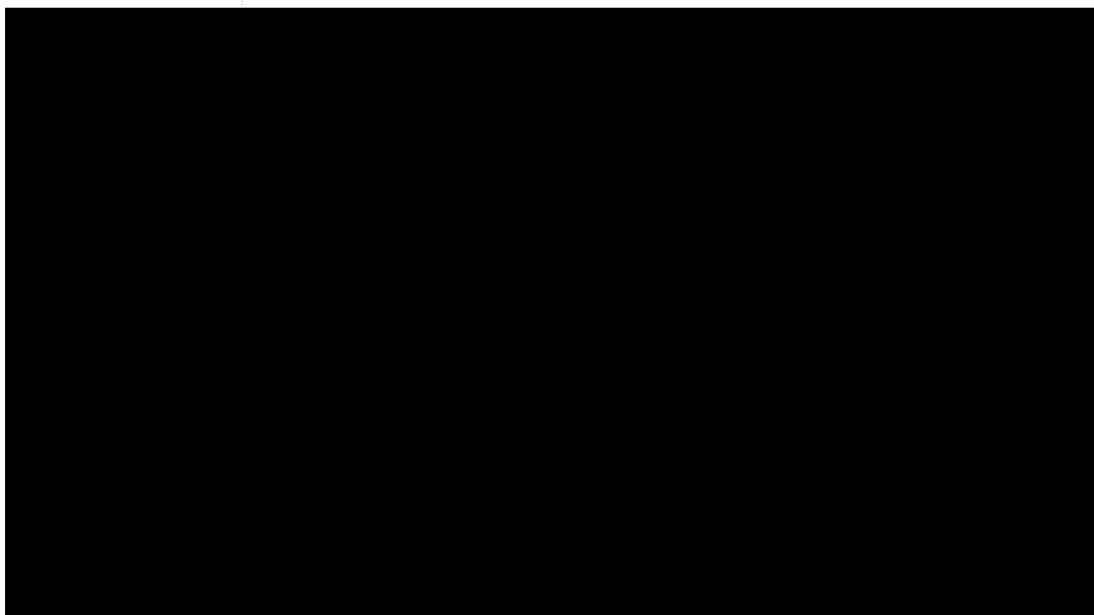
More than 300 anti-Saddam Iraqis from 23 opposition groups are meeting in Beirut, Lebanon and are debating whether or not to form a government- or parliament-in-exile, according to press reports. The delegates expressed unity against Saddam but disagreed on the need for external assistance to the rebels in Iraq. [REDACTED]

Comment: Any communique the group may issue critical of Saddam will have a negligible impact inside Iraq. [REDACTED]

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